

PATENT

REMARKS:

Claims 1-21 were pending and considered by the Examiner. Claims 1-21 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 12, 17, 19 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the subject application.

The claims have been amended to address the claim objections raised by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stiehl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,350,367). Claims 5-8 and 12-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stiehl et al. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by Stiehl et al., claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended to more clearly define what it is the applicant regards as his invention.

More specifically, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to more clearly define the injection site and, therefore, the relative relationship of the stress relieving formation(s). Stiehl et al. fail to define an injection site and, therefore, also fail to define the location of stress relieving formations in relation to the injection site. The art of record fails to solve the deficiencies of Stiehl et al. For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 12 are allowable over Stiehl et al., either taken alone or in combination with the other art of record.

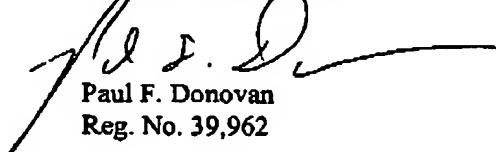
In regards to claim 20, additional steps have been added to further set forth that the rod is made and used specifically for a storage battery hydrometer. Stiehl et al. certainly does not teach or suggest, nor can it be modified to include, all of the limitations now recited in claim 20. Thus, claim 20 is patentable over Stiehl et al., taken alone or in combination with the other art of record.

PATENT

Claims 2-11, 13-19 and 21 depend from one of claims 1, 12 and 20, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all the remaining pending claims are respectfully requested. In the event that there are any issues that can be addressed and expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul F. Donovan
Reg. No. 39,962

Illinois Tool Works Inc.
3600 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, Illinois 60026-1215
(847) 657-4075